

**FINAL
MARTIN PTA MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm with Marsha Roy, Mary Beth Dufresne, Amy Watson, Kate Colavecchio, Susan Skoog, Robin Gilbert, Brittany Covill, Shirley Kociu, Michelle Balthazar, Alison Eagleson, Michael DellaSelva, Tracy Axiak, Rose Mauriello, Betsey Pitt, Brooke Kwasnicki, Diane Chappell, Alexandra Lerch and Jennifer Alibrio in attendance.

Debi Levesque, Transportation Coordinator for the Manchester Board of Education, spoke about bus stop issues in the Nathan Hale School area. Bus #5 has 71 students on board with a monitor and the Board of Education is working on getting another bus to help alleviate congestion on the bus which would make bus routes and drivers shift as well as time pick ups and drop offs. The tentative date for the new bus to arrive is October 23 with a notice going out to all families who will be affected.

Minutes from May were reviewed and approved.

President's Report: Shirley Kociu stated that Sherry Norris has stepped down from the PTA board as co-president. The book fair in December is in need of a chairperson so if you are interested, please contact Shirley.

Vice President's Report: Michelle Balthazar said that there were about 62 members so far this year including staff and families. She will be sending out the membership cards along with membership benefits information so members may activate the cards to receive these benefits.

Treasurer's Report: There will be a greater need for Seasonal Sharing this year and Kate Colavecchio will know more in November on how much money will be needed. A line item for Clint Chartier, who speaks to the fourth grade every year about Native Americans, will be added to the budget since he is not part of the Hot School Initiative.

Monique Sanders, Program Director for Neighbors for Kids, spoke at the meeting about this five year grant that is 2 ½ years in funded by the CT Health Foundation. The after school program is held at the Spruce Street Firehouse from Monday-Thursday with a capacity of 35 students and they have 20 enrolled now. Martin and Highland Park School students can now attend since the majority of the Nathan Hale students are going to both schools. Students are recommended by staff for the program that have gone through anger management issues, death in a family or other issues that the program can help students with.

New Business:

Welcome Back Luncheon for the teachers: Amy Watson thanked everyone who helped her coordinate the meal and Alison Eagleson thanked Amy for a delicious meal.

Seasonal Sharing and Fundraising: Amy Watson said that about \$2,000 was made and the delivery date is TBD but it should be in early November.

Mums Fundraiser: Amy Watson said that the money raised goes to Seasonal Sharing and about 80 units were sold.

Stop and Shop/Shop Rite Rewards Program: Mary Beth Dufresne said that 63 people were enrolled in the Stop and Shop program and that the money raised would go into the student activity account to help pay, for example, students who cannot afford field trips. Sue Skoog stated that 51 shoppers have registered with Shop Rite and last year's efforts earned digital cards, a digital camera, books and a mini stereo for the school library. Sign up sheets were on the table for anyone interested in signing up with either store.

Original Works: Mary Beth Dufresne stated that the art work will be going home around October 24th and needed to be returned by November 5. There are a few new items this year in the catalog and they will be arriving back at the school in early December.

Picture Days in October: Proofs are going home this week and need to be returned by October 12.

Halloween Party in October: Will be held on Friday, October 26 and will be run by Alex Lerch who is in need of volunteers for set up, clean up and to oversee games and the haunted house. There will be a cap of \$10 per family.

Movie Night in November: is scheduled for November 16 and the process of licensing the movie has begun.

Running Club: the last day will be November 7.

Lyman Orchard: Rose Mauriello said that order forms are due back at school on October 22 with pick up after school on November 14. She also mentioned that Sue Donnelly and Mike DellaSelva are working on the 5th grade yearbook.

Kate Colavecchio's Report: She mentioned that the first town meeting will be this Friday for grades 3-5 at 2:30pm and they will be longer presentations. Grades K-2 will be doing E.C.H.O.S. activities of their choice during town meeting. There have been 2 fire drills at the school recently which need improvement. October is National Bully Awareness Month and grades 4 and 5 will have training. With the change to the Common Core Curriculum, Kate has invited teachers to come to each PTA meeting to speak about what is happening in a specific grade or grades and a notice will be going out prior to the meeting to inform parents of what teacher or teachers will be speaking. This is the last year of the CT Mastery Test. There are 26 students each in the two first grade classes. The Board of Education has approved the position of a full time paraprofessional split between the two rooms and hopefully will be starting around October 22.

Open Discussion:

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.